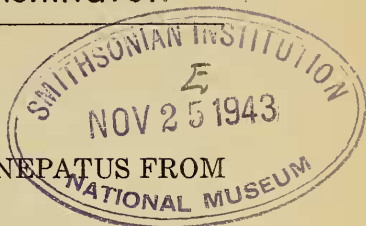


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW SKUNK OF THE GENUS *CONEPATUS* FROM  
MEXICO.

BY E. A. GOLDMAN

In identifying specimens of tropical skunks from Mexico the writer noticed a hitherto unrecognized geographic race inhabiting the peninsula of Yucatan. It is based mainly on specimens collected by E. W. Nelson and the writer more than 40 years ago.

*Conepatus tropicalis yucatanicus*, subsp. nov.

*Type*.—From La Vega, on mainland coast opposite Isla Cancun, northeastern Quintana Roo, Mexico. No. 108502, ♂ young adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Surveys collection); collected by E. W. Nelson and E. A. Goldman, March 19, 1901. Original number, 14625.

*Distribution*.—Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and Guatemala; limits of range undetermined.

*General characters*.—A subspecies of medium size, with long tail and two white dorsal stripes extending far backward. Similar in general to *Conepatus tropicalis tropicalis*, of Vera Cruz, but tail much longer; color about the same, but white of tail more extensive, owing to greater length; cranial details different. Also similar to *Conepatus tropicalis trichurus* of Panama, but smaller; white dorsal stripes extending farther posteriorly.

*Color*.—*Type*.—Head white across crown from which two white stripes, separated by a narrower median black stripe, extend posteriorly along back, gradually narrowing to points near hips, a few hairs faintly indicating continuation to base of tail; face, sides of body, under parts, and limbs black; tail white to near base, the white narrowing to a point above, leaving sides and basal two inches below black. In a topotype the white dorsal stripes are more completely interrupted on rump.

*Skull*.—Similar in size to that of *tropicalis*, but frontal region broader between orbits and at postorbital constriction; anterior nares less oblique, less extended antero-posteriorly as viewed from above; mastoid bullae less inflated; dentition slightly heavier. Compared with that of *trichurus* the skull is somewhat smaller, with lighter dentition.

*Measurements.*—Type and a young adult male topotype, respectively: Total length, 565, 555 mm.; tail vertebrae, 194, 175; hind foot, 75, 76. *Skull:* Type and a young adult male topotype, respectively: Median length (occiput to end of premaxilla), 77.2, 75; condylobasal length, 75.5, 75.4; zygomatic breadth, 46.5, 48.3; mastoid breadth, 41.6, 41.2; interorbital breadth, 22.5, 23.3; postorbital breadth, 19.3 19.8; maxillary tooth row (front of canine to back of carnassial), 24.1, 23.3; upper carnassial (crown length, outer side), 8.1, 8.1. An adult female from Merida, Yucatan: Median length (occiput to end of premaxilla), 74.3; condylobasal length, 70.8; zygomatic breadth, 49; interorbital breadth, 22.1; postorbital breadth, 18.4; maxillary tooth row (front of canine to back of carnassial), 23.3; upper carnassial (crown length, outer side), 8.1.

*Remarks.*—*Conepatus tropicalis yucatanicus* appears to be a peninsular race, closely allied to *C. t. tropicalis* of Vera Cruz. It differs most obviously in the greater length of the tail. In length of tail it more nearly approaches *C. t. trichurus* of Panama, but the latter differs in larger size and heavier dentition as pointed out.

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 4, as follows:  
Guatemala: Without definite locality, 1 (skull only).  
Quintana Roo: La Vega (type locality), 2.  
Yucatan: Merida, 1 (skull only).